



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - April 1, 2003

- ***In the West***, warm, dry weather is promoting spring fieldwork in ***California*** and the ***Four Corners region***. Meanwhile, scattered rain and snow showers continue in the ***Northwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, much warmer weather is overspreading ***central and southern portions of the region***, following recent freezes. Freeze damage, if any, to the ***southern High Plains'*** jointing winter wheat is being evaluated but is not expected to be significant. Today's high temperatures in ***Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas*** are forecast to range from 80 to 90 degrees F, but cold weather lingers in ***Montana***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, warmer weather favors pre-planting fieldwork across most of the ***Midwest***. However, cool weather lingers across the ***northern one-third of the Corn Belt***.
- ***In the South***, planting operations for corn, rice, soybeans, cotton and other spring-sown crops are progressing northward under dry, warmer conditions. However, some wetness-related fieldwork delays continue in the ***southern Atlantic States***.

Outlook: Rain and snow will spread from the ***northern Plains*** eastward across the ***Great Lakes and Northeastern States***, while dry, unseasonably warm weather will cover the remainder of the ***Plains*** and ***Corn Belt***. Following a chilly start to the week, temperatures will quickly rebound to above-normal levels in the ***Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern States***. Meanwhile, scattered rain showers and high-elevation snow will persist throughout the week in the ***Pacific Northwest, northern California, and the northern Rockies***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 6-10 calls for above-normal precipitation in ***California, the northern Plains, and areas from the Delta into the Northeast***. Drier-than-normal is likely in the ***northern Rockies, central and southern Plains, Rio Grande Valley, and southern Florida***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast across most of the ***eastern half of the U.S.***, while cooler-than-normal weather is expected in the ***West***.

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